

information about the stored information in the storage units to a user, the control means being further operable for providing menu information for display on the menu display unit.

11. The system of claim 10 in which the information in each of the storage units includes stored menu information, the control means being further operable for controlling each operating means to retrieve the stored menu information from the respective storage unit for updating the menu information provided to the menu display unit.

12. The system of claim 10 in which the menu display unit comprises switching means for switching the menu display unit from displaying menu information to displaying information retrieved from one of the storage units.

13. An information system, comprising:

- a plurality of operating means, each operable for interacting with information stored on a respective storage unit, each operating means comprising loading means for loading the respective storage unit into, and unloading the respective storage unit from, that operating means, and each operating means being operable for retrieving information stored on a respective storage unit;
- a storage rack near the operating means for storing a plurality of such storage units;
- a plurality of user units for presenting the retrieved information and control means for selectively connecting the operating means to the user units for presenting the information retrieved by each operating means from such respective storage unit on at least one of the user units;
- carrying means for carrying such respective storage unit between the storage rack and the respective operating means and for inserting such storage unit into, and removing such storage unit from, the storage rack and the loading means of the operating means, the carrying means comprising support means movable relative to the storage rack for moving such storage unit between the storage rack and the respective operating means, and holding means on the support means for holding such storage unit while such storage unit is being carried;
- the information in each of such storage units including stored menu information,
- the control means being further operable for controlling each operating means to retrieve the stored menu information from each respective storage unit,
- at least one of the user units being a menu display unit for displaying menu information to a user, and
- the control means further comprising selection memory means for storing selection data relative to the selections in such storage units, the stored menu information from all storage units of such plurality of storage units being retrieved, for integrating and updating the menu information provided to the menu display unit from the selection memory means, prior to display by the menu display unit of stored menu information from such plurality of storage units.

14. The system of claim 13 in which each storage unit comprises an optically readable disk and each operating means further comprises a reader for optically reading information stored on the optically readable disks, the reader comprising a case with an opening defined

therein, the loading means being arranged for loading and unloading each disk through the opening.

15. The system of claim 14 in which the disks are laser readable compact digital disks, the reader comprising means for retrieving the stored information by random access.

16. The system of claim 14 in which the loading means comprises a drawer slidably mounted in the opening in the case and transferring means for transferring each disk between the carrying means and the drawer.

17. The system of claim 13 in which each storage unit comprises a capacitively readable disk and each operating means further comprises a reader for capacitively reading information stored on the capacitively readable disks, the reader comprising a case with a slot defined therein, the loading means being arranged for loading and unloading each disk through the slot.

18. The system of claim 13 in which each storage unit is a disk and each operating means comprises a turntable for supporting a disk, the carrying means being further operable for positioning each disk over the turntable, the loading means being for loading each disk onto the turntable.

19. The system of claim 13 in which each storage unit is enclosed in a protective cover, the holding means comprising a claw for gripping the protective cover for holding the storage unit.

20. The system of claim 13 in which the control means is further operable for selectively controlling the movements of the carrying means.

21. The system of claim 20 in which the control means comprises a first microprocessor for providing selection signals indicating which storage unit is selected and a second microprocessor for receiving the selection signals and for providing actuating signals to the carrying means for moving the selected storage unit.

22. The system of claim 20, further comprising sensing means for providing a position signal indicating the position of the carrying means, the position signal being provided for the control means.

23. The system of claim 20 in which the storage rack and the carrying means are movable relative to each other for positioning the carrying means for inserting a storage unit into or removing a storage unit from a selected location in the storage rack, the control means being further operable for controlling the relative movements of the storage rack and the carrying means.

24. A method of displaying stored information to at least one user, comprising:

- selecting an operating unit from a plurality of operating units for retrieving stored information from a storage unit;
- selecting at least one user unit from a plurality of user units to display information to at least one user;
- connecting the selected operating unit to each selected user unit to provide the stored information from such storage unit to each selected user unit;
- displaying the stored information on each selected user unit;
- receiving an input from a user to one of the user units indicating a selection from the stored information to be displayed to the user from one of a plurality of storage units including such first-mentioned storage unit;
- retrieving menu information from each of the plurality of storage units, the menu information from